GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
SECOND LINE TREATMENT FOR AIDS PATIENTS
Kumar Shri Shailendra

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines for IInd-line treatment of AIDS are not available in the Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of measures being taken by the Government to make available medicines for such treatment in the Government Hospitals; and

(d) the cost incurred on the publicity campaign on AIDS awareness and its prevention?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b): No, Sir.The National ART Programme is providing only first line ARV drugs.The second line ART is quite expensive (10 times constlier than first line drugs), require specialized laboratory tests, training of doctors,adherence counseling and monitoring mechanisms.These have to be in place before second line drugs can be provided in order to avoid resistance to these drugs and satisfactory patient outcomes.

(c): The second line ART was started at two sites GHTM, Tambaram and JJ Hospital, Mumbai from January, 2008 on a pilot basis. Based on the experience gained in the pilot phase, this is being expanded to 8 other proposed "Centres of Excellence" in the country at Delhi, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Imphal, Hyderabad, Varanasi, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

The necessary preparoatory activities for the expansion have been completed, such as the development of treatment protocols, monitoring tools and handouts, counseling material, job aids and patient education material.These centres are being linked to specialized laboratories with facilities for viral load testing.The Nodal Officers from these centres are scheduled to go to Thailand for training in November, 2008. Besides, all ART centers in Maharashtra are being linked to JJ Hospital and all ART centers in Tamil Nadu from 1st November, 2008.

In a phased manner all ART centres in the country will be linked to these 10 Centres of Excellence for second line ART.

(d): An expenditure of Rs.18371 lakhs has been incurred on the publicity campaign done in 2007-08 and 08-09 in different states.The breakup of the expenditure is given in the Annexure.